



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE February 22, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- Homeland Security Planning Workshops were held February 4-6 in Benton, Carbondale, and Effingham. Leaders from first response, public health, government, education, industry, as well as representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and U. S. Marshals Office were in attendance. The workshops focus on critical analysis during the initial stages of a major terrorism-related event/crisis. Additional workshops are scheduled during the week of February 25 – March 1 in the Chicago metro region. For more information, visit www.fsi.uiuc.edu/hspw/index.html
- The Illinois Fire Service Institute conducted a new Hospital Response to Terrorism course on February 13-15, which included emergency response to terrorism basic concepts, medical management of (chemical agent) contaminated patients, and hospital decontamination.
- The following mandatory State Interagency Response Team (SIRT) training dates have been scheduled for 2002. The dates are subject to change if there are major conflicts with any agency involved. The training involves several state agencies and the cooperation of private and public training venues. Requests to reschedule the dates should be forwarded to Illinois State Police Lieutenant Stuart Erlenbush immediately.

<u>Central SIRT</u>	<u>North SIRT</u>	<u>South SIRT</u>
March 19	April 16	April 24
May 15	June 11	June 19
July 16	August 13	August 21
September 17	October 15	October 23
November 12	December 17	December 18

Additional dates may be scheduled to conduct full scale exercises with other agencies. All SIRT teams will receive the same training. Officers unable to attend with their respective team will be responsible for notifying Lieutenant Erlenbush to reschedule the block of training with another team. All training requests from outside agencies should be forwarded to Lieutenant Erlenbush.

- On February 8, the federal Department of Health and Human Services distributed Phase I guidance for preparing applications to establish a Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program to all states. The purpose of the cooperative agreement program is to upgrade the preparedness of the nation's hospitals and health care system to respond to bioterrorist events. Such an upgrade will allow the health care system to become more prepared to deal with nonterrorist epidemics as well as outbreaks of rare diseases. The primary focus will be identification and implementation of bioterrorism preparedness plans and protocols for hospitals and other participating health care entities. Development of statewide models for such protocols is encouraged, as is collaboration with other states and national organizations with expertise in this subject.

The Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program will be administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Funds for the program are intended to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local public health funds available for emergency activities to combat threats to public health.

In order to make rapid awards and to provide the Phase 1 allocation (20 percent of the total award), the program will use a simple application process, speedy review, and abbreviated administrative procedures. Cooperative agreement awards will go to recipients rapidly. Illinois must submit its grant application by February 25, 2002.

- On February 20, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff participated in an educational session on the Florida Department of Health's web-based disease reporting and analysis system known as "Merlin." Merlin is a contractor-developed disease reporting and analysis system used by Florida for reporting communicable diseases. The IDPH anticipates Merlin's technologies can be used in Illinois for web-based disease reporting.
- As of February 19, the Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,628 samples. All have been negative for anthrax.
- The Illinois Mobile Emergency Response Team (IMERT) and department staff presented a four-hour overview on weapons of mass destruction for physicians, nurses, and EMTs at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago. The training was sponsored by the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and Illinois Hospital Healthsystems Association. More than 60 medical providers attended the educational session.
- The Research and Special Programs Administration of the Federal Department of Transportation has issued guidance to shippers and carriers of voluntary measures to enhance the security of hazardous materials shipments during transportation. The notice addresses personnel, facility, and en route security issues, and includes contact points for obtaining additional, more detailed information. Some materials used in agriculture

are considered hazardous substances and the Illinois Department of Agriculture has contacted the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association concerning the advisory notice.

- A Homeland Security briefing was conducted for 150 local officials and members of the public in Ottawa on February 13. Representatives from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and Exelon joined the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) to present an overview of preparedness activities. Special emphasis was placed on security and response functions related to the state's nuclear generating stations.
- The IDNS continues to explore the feasibility of developing a stockpile of potassium iodide (KI) for public distribution. To date, no manufacturer has been found that can provide the drug in the dosages recommended by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.
- The final planning stages are being completed for the March 20 full-scale emergency exercise with the LaSalle Station. The federally evaluated exercise will involve Exelon, IDNS, IEMA, and several other state agencies, as well as county and municipal government response groups in LaSalle and Grundy counties. A limited participation rehearsal drill was conducted on February 20.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Division of Highways, is completing a questionnaire for the AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) Task Force on Transportation Security. The information collected will be used to develop a Highway Vulnerability Assessment Guide.
- Disaster Intelligence Field Report cards are available from the IEMA. The cards can be placed in field personnel vehicles who may be reporting emergencies.

- The IDOT Division of Aeronautics participated in a teleconference on February 13 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), other state aviation divisions, and a number of aviation organizations in the Chicago area. The purpose of the conference was to educate pilots and the general public on the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) around downtown Chicago.
- The FAA has selected a number of individuals to form working groups to address public and pilot education of TFRs in downtown general aviation traffic (i.e., which is under radar control, visual traffic routes, etc.) The working groups will meet in Chicago on February 28, 2002, to address these issues.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) has met with metropolitan Young Men's Christian Associations and Boys and Girls Clubs in an effort to establish their facilities as volunteer registration locations following a major disaster or weapons of mass destruction/threat event to prevent congestion at the disaster site. This would supplement any Internet volunteer registration program. ARC staff would train agency staffs in techniques for interviewing volunteers and conducting skill assessments.
- American Red Cross staff are working with state and federal officials at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in an effort to better plan for response following a major event with high attendance and international implications (language barriers, lack of standardized identification from foreign nationals, coordination with embassies, etc.) to aid in ARC's preparedness for incidents that might happen elsewhere, particularly in major urban areas.
- The Illinois Commerce Commission met with a task force of select utility executives and chiefs of security on how to communicate during emergencies and how they talk to

each other. The IEMA has been instrumental in helping with communications plans in place and a review with the task force of the reporting system.

- The following is the sixth in a series of practical tips offered by the U. S. State Department on how private citizens can individually contribute to the fight against terrorism by using their observation skills. This installment focuses on healthcare providers.

Terrorists rarely participate in health insurance programs and will seek medical care only when absolutely necessary, even for their children. When such care is sought, payment is often made by cash.

Healthcare providers should note anyone who seeks vaccines or prescriptions for reasons that seem unwarranted or questionable. Terrorists may mishandle chemicals or toxic substances which create health problems that require them, their accomplices, or others to obtain immediate medical assistance. In such cases, the explanations offered as to the origin of the injuries are suspicious and/or difficult to verify.

Terrorists may seek access to unusually large quantities of various controlled substances. They may use these substances to commit acts of contamination as well as to protect themselves in the event of unanticipated exposure to dangerous substances.

Any healthcare worker who treats or observes someone who displays any of these characteristics should immediately report the suspicious behavior to law enforcement authorities.